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detecting, by said short message service center, said group identifier from said short message information; and  
simultaneously transmitting said short message to subscriber numbers associated with said detected group identifier.

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9. (Amended) A method for transmitting a short message to a plurality of subscribers in a mobile communication system, comprising the steps of:  
transmitting from a mobile communication terminal a short message registration signal including a short message service center number, a group identifier and at least one subscriber number, the group identifier being a separately defined field;  
detecting, by a short message service center, said group identifier from said short message registration signal; and  
registering said transmitted subscriber numbers in said short message service center in accordance with said detected group identifier.

#### REMARKS

Applicant responds to the Office Action dated June 9, 2000. Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application. Independent Claims 1, 2 and 9 have been amended above. Claims 11 and 12 were acknowledged in the Office Action as having allowable subject matter. (Office Action, ¶¶8-10)

Independent Claims 1 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,026,296 to Sanders, III et al. (Office Action, ¶12) In addition, independent Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over

Sanders in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,987,323 to Huotari. (Office Action, ¶4)

Claims 1, 2 and 9 each refer to a "group identifier" that a plurality of mobile stations are associated with. Thus, Claim 1 recites "associating each of said plurality of called subscriber numbers with a group identifier" and "simultaneously transmitting said short message to each of said plurality of called subscriber numbers by designating said group identifier". Claim 1 has been amended above to further clarify that "the group identifier [is] a separately defined field".

Claims 2 and 9 have analogous recitations and have been amended in analogous manner. Thus, Claim 2 recites "said short message information including a group identifier and a short message, the group identifier being a separately defined field" and "simultaneously transmitting said short message to subscriber numbers associated with said detected group identifier". Claim 9 recites "transmitting from a mobile communication terminal...a group identifier and at least one subscriber number, the group identifier being a separately defined field", "detecting, by a short message service, said group identifier" and "registering said transmitted subscriber numbers in said short message service center in accordance with said detected group identifier".

The Sanders patent is cited in the Office Action for purportedly showing these "group identifier" aspects recited in Claims 1, 2 and 9 (other than, of course, the newly included recitation "the group identifier being a separately defined field"). Sanders, however, is directed at the dispatching of calls or other messages. Thus, Sanders focuses on directing messages originating from a particular device to a single pre-defined group of recipients. The group of recipients are identified by using the originating device's ID or one of the target addresses that are included in the "call

request" information. The sections of Sanders cited in the Office Action underscore this distinction: Thus, col. 2, lines 37-65 of Sanders states that "the call request includes an identification (ID) of the originating device and a target address associated with the dispatch controller", "[u]pon receiving the call request, the dispatch controller retrieves dispatch-related information from a database coupled to the dispatch controller based on either the originating device's ID or the target address" and "[t]he dispatch-related information includes a talk group affiliation for the originating communication device". In addition, within col. 10, lines 17-41 it is stated that "The SMS call request includes an ID of the communication device and an address of the dispatch controller ... the dispatch controller utilizes the communication device's ID or a target address of the dispatch controller contained in the SMS call request to determine the communication device's talk group and associated talk group members". Finally, col 7, lines 4-20 and col. 10, lines 44-52, cited in the Office Action, makes no reference to a "group identifier" or like parameter.

In order for a reference to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), it must describe all of the elements of the claim. As described above, Sanders fails to show (at least) the Claim 1 recitations of "associating each of said plurality of called subscriber numbers with a group identifier, the group identifier being a separately defined field" and "simultaneously transmitting said short message to each of said plurality of called subscriber numbers by designating said group identifier", as well as the Claim 9 recitations of "transmitting from a mobile communication terminal...a group identifier and at least one subscriber number, the group identifier being a separately defined field", "detecting, by a short message service, said group identifier" and "registering said

transmitted subscriber numbers in said short message service center in accordance with said detected group identifier". Thus, Sanders fails to anticipate Claims 1 and 9 as amended. Reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 1 and 9 is thus respectfully requested.

As noted independent Claim 2 was also rejected in the Office Action as obvious over Sanders in view of Huotari. In order for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to be appropriate, the Patent Office must initially show that all of the recitations of a claim are taught in the prior art or are suggested by the prior art. M.P.E.P. §2143.03.

Independent Claim 2 contains analogous recitations as independent Claims 1 and 9. Namely, Claim 2 recites "said short message information including a group identifier and a short message, the group identifier being a separately defined field" and "simultaneously transmitting said short message to subscriber numbers associated with said detected group identifier". In addition, independent Claim 2 has been further amended to clarify that "the group identifier [is] a separately defined field". Thus, for at least these reasons, the combination of Sanders and Huotari fail to render Claim 2 obvious. Reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 2 is thus respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sanders and Huotari. (Office Action, ¶4) Dependent Claims 3, 4 and 6 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sanders, Huotari and Applicant's purported admission. (Office Action, ¶5) Dependent Claim 5 was rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sanders, Applicant's purported admission and U.S. Patent No. 5,878,351 to Alanara. (Office Action, ¶6)

Dependent Claim 10 was rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sanders and Applicant's purported admission. (Office Action, ¶7)

Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 3-8, 10, 13 and 14, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 3-8, 10, 13 and 14 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent Claims 2 and 9. Allowance is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully accepts the acknowledgment in the Office Action that dependent Claims 11 and 12 include allowable subject matter. However, in view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant maintain that all of the pending claims in this application, namely Claims 1-14, are allowable. Allowance of Claims 1-14 is thus respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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